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INSIDE



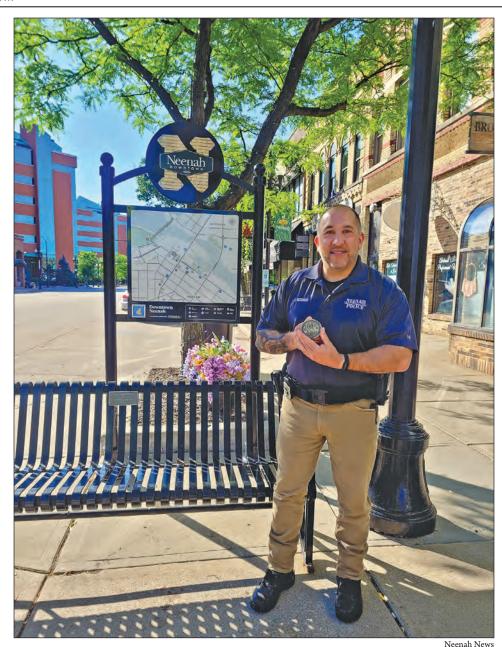
Summer stage **Riverside** Players getting 'All Shook Up' Page 3

Safety policy

Library bans guns after AR-15 carrier Page 5

Better results

Safe Streets keys on alternative rehab



Assistant Police Chief Jeff Bernice holds one of the medallions that have been hidden in various locations

Police medallion searches inspire families to team up

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Police Department is more than halfway through its treasure hunt for commemorative medallions to help celebrate the city's sesquicentennial anniversary - which coincides with the police department's 150 years - and honor the rich history of the area.

Each week, police hide a commemorative bronze medallion in parks and public property within the city. Clues to the location are posted on the department's Facebook page each Monday.

Finders get to keep the medallion, are awarded a certificate with the medallion's number, and are asked to scan a QR code and submit a picture of their group.

The treasure hunt has drawn a large and dedicated following, according to Assistant Police Chief Jeff Bernice.

"For example, one individual said he took off every Monday throughout the year just to concentrate on the hunt," he

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Five-year city plans outlined

Streets, parks, other redevelopment head list

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah has released its Capital Improvements Plan that outlines major expenses over the next five years.

Mayor Jane Lang wrote in a letter to the Common Council and residents that the plan isn't a formal budget but serves as a guideline for future spending.

"The five-year plan will likely change from year to year based on needs, priorities, and the input you provide," Lang wrote. "We must all remain flexible as we work together towards the best possible outcomes for the city."

2024 expenditures include:

\$3.3 million for street projects. \$1.6 million for Public Works capital equipment.

\$1.5 million to expand the Southpark Industrial Center, financed by tax incremental districts.

\$1.5 million to acquire property downtown for redevelopment.

\$1.3 million for Arrowhead Park improvements as a holding place because no concrete plans are set.

\$700,000 for painting and lighting the Oak Street bridge.

\$360,000 for an automated solid waste truck each year from 2024 through 2027.

\$250,000 for vehicle safety barriers for city events.

\$150,000 for a storage building for police vehicles.

2025 expenditures:

\$18 million for a new downtown parking structure, financed by tax incremental districts.

\$5.8 million for fire and rescue to replace Fire Station 31 at 1080 Breezewood

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SEE Medallion hunt ON PAGE 10

SEE City projects ON PAGE 11



Submitted photo Christopher Zahn from Wisconsin Voices for Recovery is shown at the state Capitol.

Overdose prevention methods expand

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

A 12-year-old overdosing on fentanyl after smoking percocet. Senior citizens testing positive for fentanyl after taking CBD gummies to help with arthritis and inflammation. Marijuana misted with fentanyl to increase potency.

Those are some of the alarming incidents Christopher Zahn of Wisconsin Voices for Recovery has seen in recent years as the fentanyl crisis tightens its grip on the state.

"Somebody could swallow what they think is a percocet, but it's fentanyl," he said.

Winnebago County has been identified

as one of the counties leading Wisconsin in opioid overdoses. As of last month, the county had 17 confirmed fatal overdoses - 14 containing fentanyl - according to Medical Examiner Cheryl Brehmer. An additional nine suspected fatal overdoses are pending toxicology results.

In 2021, the county saw fatal overdose rates soar to their highest level, with 41 residents losing their lives. Last year, there were 38 such deaths. The county's overdose fatality review team reports that since 2017, fentanyl has been the leading cause of county overdose deaths.

Naloxone, also known by brand name Narcan, has been safely used for more than 40 years to treat opioid overdoses.

It's used by first responders, emergency medical technicians and law enforcement, and can be purchased at pharmacies.

Wisconsin Voices for Recovery director Cindy Burzinski said in emergency situations, when an overdose is occurring, administering Narcan before EMS arrival may be the difference between life and death.

"Time is of the essence when somebody is overdosing," she said. "Brain damage can happen after just a few minutes."

Burzinski said people experiencing a suspected overdose who are administered Narcan must still receive medical attention because Narcan is shorter acting than

SEE Drug strategies ON PAGE 9



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General information/customer service: Jennifer Grunwald admin@neenahnewsnow.com Phone: 920-486-1616 Website: www.neenahnewsnow.com

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Advertising deadline is noon Friday for the following Friday. The classified line ads deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday for Friday.

Publisher

Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407 karen@oshkoshherald.com

Not-guilty pleas in burglary, car chase

Police

determined

were inside watching

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sons room at the time

Flock camera system,

police located the sto-

len vehicle in Neenah.

Officers observed the

the city's

of the burglary.

Using

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

A 20-year-old Eau Claire man and 25-year-old Neenah man have both entered not guilty pleas to charges that they stole a vehicle from Menasha last November, crashed it in Fond du Lac, fled from police and jumped into a river before being apprehended.

Cimzeej Catron, of Eau Claire, identified as the driver of the stolen vehicle, is facing charges in Winnebago County of felony burglary and taking and driving a vehicle without the owner's consent. In Fond du Lac County, he's been charged with four felonies and three misdemeanors including driving without consent, fleeing and eluding, hit-and-run, reckless driving, resisting arrest, criminal damage to property and possessing an illegally obtained prescription as party to the crime.

Caleb Fuerstenberg, of Neenah, identified as the passenger, is facing charges in Winnebago County of felony burglary, taking and driving a vehicle without the owner's consent and bail jumping. In Fond du Lac, he has been charged with three felonies and two misdemeanors including bail jumping, possession of narcotic drugs as a second offense, resisting arrest, and possessing an illegally obtained prescription.

Both men's charges include a sentencing modifier as a repeater.

On Nov. 29, police were dispatched to a home in Menasha after the homeowners reported a burglary. Items taken from the home included an oxycodone pre-





vehicle traveling at speeds in excess of 60 miles per hour in a 35 mph zone before losing sight of it. The vehicle was next seen traveling south on Interstate 41.

Fond du Lac police located the vehicle traveling near I 41 and South Military Road and attempted a traffic stop. The vehicle failed to pull over and fled, with officers in pursuit. The chase reached speeds of about 90 mph while the vehicle was traveling into Fond du Lac.

The vehicle continued into town and crashed into an occupied vehicle on Western Avenue. Both suspects exited the vehicle and fled on foot. The occupants of the struck vehicle were unharmed.

Authorities from several agencies responded to the area to search for the men, where a drone and police canine were deployed. Both men jumped into the Fond du Lac River to attempt to get away before being taken into custody.

Upon searching the stolen vehicle, authorities recovered the victim's purse.

Catron told authorities he didn't know what happened the night of the incident because he was under the influence of drugs. He also said Fuerstenberg was driving and he was the passenger; despite being observed by Fond du Lac officers as the driver.

Fuerstenberg refused to speak with authorities about the incident.

In impact statements, the burglary victims wrote that they only had their new vehicle for several weeks when it was stolen. Damages caused by the crash were in excess of \$32,000 and it would take an estimated six months before vehicle repairs would be complete.

Some stolen items, including house keys, were never recovered and one victim had to change all her credit cards and cancel her checking account.

"We have had to lock this house in a way that my family has not done for my entire lifetime," the 75-year-old male victim wrote.

His wife said the couple no longer have a sense of safety and security in their home.

"These individuals brazenly entered our home while we were there," she wrote. "The consequences could have been very serious for us and them, in addition to the serious and significant loss of property."

End to protest petition ordinance advances

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Plan Commission on Tuesday voted to move forward a measure to eliminate the city's protest petition ordinance that triggers a supermajority vote for rezoning in advance of the state's planned elimination of the requirement in January 2025.

Under city ordinance, a rezoning requires a supermajority vote of three-

fourths of council members if at least 20% of the owners of the properties in the vicinity of the rezoning submit signatures in a protest petition. That means seven of the nine council members must vote in favor of rezoning, rather than a simple majority typically required to pass a measure.

The ordinance is often referred to by the acronym NIMBY ("not in my back yard.") It was used for the first time in more than a decade in December to prevent a devel-



oper from turning the vacant 95-year-old Shattuck Middle School into apartments and construct single-family homes.

The Common Council was already examining the ordinance in consideration of removing it when Gov. Tony Evers signed a bill into law in June that will eliminate the supermajority requirement for rezoning statewide. The bipartisan legislation passed the state Assembly unanimously and the Senate 32-1.

Because of the delay in eliminating the requirement, the council advanced a proposal to the Plan Commission to change the ordinance, with a public hearing on the proposed change at a meeting Tuesday.

Residents Alexander Collins and Judd Stevenson, part of the group that submitted protest petitions against rezoning Shattuck, spoke against eliminating it, stating that the city was moving too quickly.

Aldermen John Skyrms and Lee Hill-

Editor

Dan Roherty, 920-508-0027 editor@oshkoshherald.com

Corrections

It is the policy of the Neenah News to correct all errors of fact. For correction information, call 920-486-1616.

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Neenah Historical Society

Bubble gum gang

From the Appleton Post Crescent, July 7, 1950: "Youngsters never get tired trying their skill with bubble gum although it's a sticky job when bubbles break all over the face. Neenah's Green playground held its traditional bubble gum contest Thursday afternoon with the best artists winning prizes. Left to right are some of the winners, Sandy Schell who won first prize for smallest bubble; Nancy Bull, second place for the smallest; Earl Williams, biggest bubble; Peter Bylow, double bubble; and Robert Graham, oddest bubble."

strom, and Realtors Association of Northeast Wisconsin director of public relations Jennifer Sunstrom spoke in favor of eliminating the requirement.

Sunstrom wrote in a memo that Wisconsin is experiencing a severe housing crisis caused by a lack of supply and escalating housing prices, which also affects businesses who cannot recruit and retain employees due to the shortage. She said removing the supermajority requirement will also eliminate NIMBY-ism and pave the way for new housing developments.

Eliminating the ordinance does not change requirements for public notice, open meetings or public hearings, and residents opposed to rezoning can still submit petitions.

The Plan Commission voted 7-1 to approve eliminating the ordinance, with Betsy Ellenberger voting against. The council is expected to issue a final vote Wednesday.

JULY 14, 2023

Riverside Players set to rock the park with 'All Shook Up'

Neenah News

Combining more than 20 of Elvis Presley's greatest hits with romantic ideas from Shakespeare's greatest comedies, Riverside Players' production of "All Shook Up" takes the Riverside Park pavilion stage starting Thursday evening with eight performances.

"We really wanted to find something that would appeal to all audiences but would also welcome cast and crew of all ages and experience levels," said director Amanda Petersen. "Everyone has really risen to the challenge of this show, including tackling over a dozen choreographed musical numbers, countless 1950s style costumes, and a wide variety of set pieces – including a real motorcycle on stage."

The play is set in a drab Midwest town in 1955 with a broken-down jukebox, broken-down people and a new law declaring "no necking, no tight pants, no loud music." When Chad, a guitar-playing roustabout with a song in his heart – and in his hips – rides into town, everyone gets shook up by his magic. People start falling in love: young love, secret love and burning love.



Riverside Players photo

Member SIPC

Choreographer Kyle S. Brauer and featured dancers rehearse "A Little Less Conversation" (from left) Alexandra Smith, Haley Lewallen, Kadie Smith, Kyle S. Brauer, Jenny Witt, Krista Frenz and Katie Jo Shimulunas.

The show features pop classics including "Heartbreak Hotel," "Burnin' Love," "Love Me Tender," "Can't Help Falling in Love" and "Jailhouse Rock." Costumer and featured dancer Krista Frenz noted that "All Shook Up" shows the generational connection through the love of music and sharing that love

Edward Jones

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through songs.

"My grandma constantly played her cassette tapes in the car or sang to us all the oldies when she watched us," she said. "I grew to love those songs because she loved them so much and they make me still feel connected to her even now that she is gone."

Janae Owens, who plays young romantic Lorraine, said "the message of the show is to love whoever you want to love, that regardless of what others might say, love comes in all forms and should always be celebrated."

Brian Michel, who portrays the guitar-slinging roustabout, said he hopes "audiences will leave inspired to follow their dreams, wherever they may lead."

Performances are set next week for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, followed by four more shows July 26-30. Tickets are \$18 and available at ci.neenah.wi.us/departments/parks-recreation/riverside-players, via phone 920-886-6060, or at the pavilion 90 minutes before curtain. Advance ticketing is recommended.



Library, Valley VNA share story times

Valley VNA Senior Care and the Neenah Public Library joined forces in March to collaborate on Storytime for Everyone, an intergenerational storytelling session. The program engages all ages and fosters connections between seniors and children, creating an environment where the joy of storytelling and community interaction intertwine.

Once a month, the library moves Storytime to Valley VNA and the community gathers for an interactive meeting. With the continued success of the program, it will be offered twice a month in the fall.

Storytime includes read-aloud opportunities, rhymes, music, movement and time at the end to visit with residents. The next session at Valley VNA, 1535 Lyon Drive, Neenah, is at 10 a.m. July 21.

Valley VNA Senior Care provides inhome care for seniors and both independent and assisted living.





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Zephyrs theater staging 'Oklahoma!' with special style

Neenah News

"Oh, what a beautiful mornin." Zephyrs Community Theater is presenting the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Oklahoma!" the upbeat, fun love story that turns 80 this year.



First premiering on Broadway in 1943, it is being presented at the Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center at St. Mary Catholic School starting Thursday and running through July 23.

Schmidt

through July 23. The July 22 matinee will be a relaxed show-

ing, an informal performance designed to create an experience for those with autism, other sensory sensitivities or have never experienced the theater before.

"Guests are able to talk, and can enter and exit as they need during the show," explained director Claire Schmidt. "And then with that, we also keep the house lights on at a low level so that they can move around, and then we limit our effects of moving throbs and loud sounds so that no one gets overstimulated."

Tickets for that performance are not available until an hour before the show and

Sunset Hill Stoneware is hand-crafting

Neenah mugs commemorating Future

Neenah's 40th anniversary year that vol-



Stage rehearsals by Zephyrs Community Theater members in preparation for "Oklahoma!"

are free, but \$5 donations are appreciated.

Schmidt has worked on and behind the stage for the company over the past nine years, but this will be her first directing role for the company. She has directed other productions but said "Oklahoma" will be her biggest to date.

by running, walking or biking will have

opportunities to find and keep if they are

located. Two mugs will be hidden each

She said having a dedicated and supportive cast and crew behind her gives her confidence it will be an entertaining and fun success for all involved. When choosing this year's show, Schmidt said she



Saturday, July 15

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Filthy Kids Fun Run, 8:30 a.m., O'Hauser Park, Fox Crossing

Sunday, July 16

Family Day at the Octagon House, 11 a.m.

Monday, July 17

Storytime, 10 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

Tuesday, July 18

Twin Oaks Gardens open house, 5 p.m., Byrd Street

Wednesday, July 19

Brass Differential, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park Pavilion

Thursday, July 20

Out to Lunch Concert with Elvis John, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

Zephyrs Community Theater: "Oklahoma!" 7 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School wanted something upbeat.

"When it was originally on Broadway, it was used for people to escape World War II, but now coming out of the pandemic, people (are) still going through this grief and this loss of the two years they lost during the pandemic," she said.

Schmidt said that what makes their rendition unique to other "Oklahoma!" productions is the cast's individual styles and personal little quirks onstage. In addition to a live pit orchestra, much of the cast is musically inclined and will pick up and play different string instruments alongside the singing.

She added that audiences can expect to see costumes and stage sets that re-create the Old West.

Shows open at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 1 and 7 p.m. July 22, and 2 p.m. July 23. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for senior staff members and students.

Zephyrs Community Theater's junior production also will be on stage with its presentation of "Dear Edwina Jr" at St. Mary Catholic. Performances are at 6 p.m. July 28 and July 29, and 2 p.m. July 30.

Tickets to both performances can be purchased at the SMCS Fine Arts website.

Ground Round Live Music Series: Two of a Kind, 6 p.m., 1010 Cameron Way

Riverside Players presents "All Shook Up," 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park

Friday, July 21

Riverside Players presents "All Shook Up," 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park

Zephyrs Community Theater: "Oklahoma!" 7 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School

Saturday, July 22

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Cardboard Boat Regatta, 1 p.m., Neenah Pool, 600 S. Park Ave.

Riverside Players presents "All Shook Up," 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park

Zephyrs Community Theater: "Oklahoma!" 7 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School

Sunday, July 23

Neenah Summer Fun Run, 6 p.m., Memorial Park

Riverside Players presents "All Shook Up," 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park

Zephyrs Community Theater: "Oklahoma!" 2 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School

Ground Round Live Music Series: Rings Band, 6 p.m., 1010 Cameron Way



Treasure hunt added to Loop activities



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JULY 14, 2023

Library updates weapons policy after rifle appearance

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Public Library has changed its policies to ban open or concealed carry of weapons after a man walked through the library carrying a long rifle last month.

Sean Shaw, who lives on South Park Avenue, said he's been open carrying his AR-15 rifle while going on walks around his neighborhood. He said during a walk in early June he went to get a library card while carrying his rifle.

City attorney David Rashid said "AR" in the gun's name stands for "ArmaLite" and not "assault rifle."

"It's unhelpful, in my view, to term it an assault rifle, as that term can carry with it an implication of someone's



Shaw

intent - i.e. to assault - when the actual intent may be either benign or unknown," Rashid said.

An AR-15 is the same style of rifle used to carry out school mass shootings in Uvalde, Texas, in May 2022; and in Nashville in March, among others.

At the time Shaw visited the library with the gun, it had no policies on open or concealed carrying of weapons. His visit prompted at least nine complaints to library staff, the 911 dispatch center and police department.

Assistant Police Chief Jeff Bernice said with some of the situations occurring in the United States, the incident made people feel unsafe.

"Because in today's world, if you see somebody with a tactical vest and a gun,

no matter what, if from a law enforcement officer to an elderly citizen, that's a signal to a possible threat," he said.

Shaw told the Common Council last week that he was exercising his Second Amendment right to carry a firearm.

"My intention for doing this is not to scare anybody or scare any children," he said. "What I'm hoping to accomplish by doing this is to get people used to the ability to know that not everyone that carries one of these rifles is going to use them for bad intentions."

In Wisconsin, anyone 18 or older may legally carry a firearm openly as long as they're otherwise not prohibited from possessing a gun under state or federal law. State residents 21 and older and not prohibited from possessing a firearm may obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

State law prohibits carrying weapons in law enforcement stations, correctional facilities, schools, mental health facilities, and in both private and governmental buildings that have posted signs.

"So as long as it's clearly posted and noted that these items are prohibited within the premises, technically, you're not allowed," Bernice said.

He added that police have had several discussions with Shaw about openly carrying the long rifle.

"From a law enforcement perspective, we walk the fine line, because we have to protect the rights of people like Sean because it is his right as a United States citizen to bear arms," he said. "But on the other side, we have a duty to make people feel safe. So it's almost like a double edged sword because both parties are in the right."

Although Neenah police are acquainted

with Shaw, Bernice said if a different police department responded to reports of a man in a library with a rifle, those officers may perceive Shaw as a threat. In addition, responding to reports about Shaw diverts already limited police resources.

"So now officers are responding there, and there could be critical incidents somewhere else that may have a time delay," he said. "So that's my biggest concern. We have to keep on responding because it's that cry wolf situation. In the moment, we don't know if that's going to be another person causing problems and our job is to protect the citizens of Neenah."

Shaw confirmed to Neenah News that he was concealed carrying during last week's council meeting, adding that the guns weren't inside the building but were in his vehicle.

Rashid said the city has no ordinances or policies that ban firearms in city-owned buildings. State law prevents a city from banning firearms from the grounds, in the parking lot or in patrons' vehicles.

"The law only permits a city to ban them in the buildings itself," he said, adding that the council could also prohibit carrying knives in city buildings but it has not taken action to ban any weapons.

State law prohibits the carrying of firearms inside council chambers when they're being used as a municipal courtroom, which is the first Wednesday of the month in Menasha and the second Wednesday of the month in Neenah.

Neenah policy prohibits city employees from carrying firearms while on duty, with limited exceptions.

After Shaw's visit last month, the library's

iting weapons of any kind, including concealed or openly visible firearms, unless carried by law enforcement personnel.

Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm said after becoming the new library director in March she identified a gap in the library's code of conduct policy.

"Under the direction of the Library Board, and to align our policies and patron expectations with other local libraries, we updated our policy to prohibit firearms in the Neenah Public Library," she said.

Staff who become aware that a library patron is carrying a weapon are instructed to contact the manager on duty, who will notify the Neenah Police Department.

Violating the policy results in a suspension from the library for a period to be determined by the library director. A notice is now posted at the library to make patrons aware of the prohibition.

Shaw said he's disappointed in the Library Board's ban on open and concealed weapons. He plans on attending an upcoming meeting to ask the board to compromise by allowing concealed carry, adding that historically, carrying weapons was considered normal.

"That's how it was in the wild west days; people were constantly carrying openly," he said. "I just want to get people to know that there are good people in the world who do carry or have those style rifles and they don't have to be afraid of everyone - law abiding citizens that carry them - such as myself."

Bernice said there are certain responsibilities that come with openly carrying a rifle.

"There's a time and place to carry your guns and sometimes locations with a lot of individuals or children, we have to use





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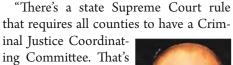
Safe Streets Initiative expands on recovery options

Crime penalty alternatives showing better results

By Cheryl Hentz NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Wisconsin has struggled with the ongoing problem of how to reduce drunken driving cases. As drug use and associated crimes have also become more prevalent, the state has been challenged by that as well.

Winnebago County has stood out with its alternative programs for these kinds of offenders and others. Some of them are some of the longest-running programs in the state and all fall under what's known as Safe Streets Initiative.



what Safe Streets is for us," said Winnebago County Circuit Judge Scott Woldt. "Whenever anyone wants to start a criminal justice program, Safe Streets has the ultimate decision-making power."

Under the initiative are three sections: the Winnebago County Safe Streets Drug Court, SSTOP (Safe Streets Treatment Options Program), and other Alternative/ Diversion programs.



Drug Court

The Drug Court was started by Woldt after he and several others from the county who wanted to reduce drug cases, including then-Sheriff Mike Brook and then-District Attorney Bill Lennon, visited La Crosse and St. Paul, where drug courts had been established. After seeing how the programs were run there, a Safe Streets committee was formed, under which Woldt started the Drug Court in January 2006 and the SSTOP program four months later.

The Safe Streets Drug Court Program is aimed at drug and alcohol offenders through an intense and monitored program of treatment, rehabilitation and strict supervision. It is a sentencing option for nonviolent felony offenders who committed a crime under the influence of drugs or alcohol, reside in Winnebago County and would otherwise be sentenced to jail or prison.

Those eligible are referred by the District Attorney's office and must be accepted by the Safe Streets coordinator. By working with the Safe Streets team, offenders stay out of jail, allowing them to maintain their jobs and family lives while getting their lives on track.

SSTOP

SSTOP was started to reduce repeat drunken driving offenses. It allows second- and third-time offenders who reside and are convicted in Winnebago County the option of participating in a probation and treatment program, while reducing jail time. Like Drug Court, SSTOP participants are referred to the program by the DA's office. Enrollees need to comply with

treatment, community service and monitoring requirements.

Alternative/Diversion

programs Several other crimes fall under the Alternative/Diversion umbrella. They include Post-Charge Drug Diversion Program, Post-Charge Overdose Diversion Program, Pre- and Post-Charge General Felony or Misdemeanor Diversion Program, UW Oshkosh Drug Diversion Program, Failure to Pay Child Support Diversion Program, Pre- and Post-Charge Healthy Interactions Group, Drivers License Recovery Diversion Program, and Worthless

Check Diversion Program. Among other criteria, participants with crimes tied to drugs or alcohol must complete the program and any recommended follow-up treatment, remain crime-free, have a minimum of six months of clean urinalysis tests, and meet other conditions based on the individual.

For more significant drug-related cases there is the SOAR (Stimulant Opioid Addiction Recovery) program for low-level felony cases, such as possession of methamphetamines, heroin and fentanyl.

"Those are Class I felonies, which is the lowest level of felonies. Traditionally what would happen is those people would be convicted and given the option of essentially probation or jail," District Attorney Eric Sparr said. "Jail doesn't necessarily help the situation, long-term, if that's all that's happening.

"But (the probation department) was lacking the resources to do all the things

SEE Safe Streets ON PAGE 7

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AUGUST 2-6, 2023 **OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN**



WinnebagoCountyFairOnline.com

Safe Streets

FROM PAGE 6

we wanted to do. They weren't regularly drug testing people in a lot of situations. There were some situations where they weren't even requiring that people go to treatment."

The DA's office wrote a grant to get money to be able to do testing every oth-



er day where the misdemeanor-level drug program tested about twice a month. If participants can't test clean in the long term they are exposed to additional penalties or more intense services. "With the rising

overdose rates, the increased presence of fentanyl and the fact that it's killing a lot of people, it has forced us to prioritize this," Sparr said, adding that they still see a lot of domestic violence cases. "The historical approach was often probation or jail. If the person didn't have a prior record, it could've been a fine. But those things simply weren't proving real effective at curbing the behavior. Part of that was that the type of counseling that was available was historically not that great."

Around 2010, they started using alternative counseling for about half the cases and the traditional model for the others. The traditional model focused on character traits or deficiencies that led to the problem in their relationships, whereas the more experimental model within family violence settings looks at problems between the two individuals that tend to cause conflict.

"It's a different way of approaching the problem and we saw a lot more effectiveness with that model," Sparr said. "Often the way we get people into that programming is to have them on a diversion agreement that (lays out the) conditions of it. It isn't used for all domestic violence cases. Some of them are just too violent and require something different, such as jail time. But when we're pushing for counseling, that's kind of the direction we were trying to get things to go."

24/7 programs for drugs and alcohol

"The drug monitoring program looks very similar to the program where we require every other day testing," Sparr said. "The alcohol monitoring program requires the person to have a device that they must blow into multiple times a day. It registers their blood alcohol level. It takes a picture of their face as they're blowing so they can't have someone else blow into it for them."

Other parts of these alternative programs are overseen by other agencies, including the Oshkosh Police Department.

"The big thing about all of this is that it's collaboration among many of the players in the (law enforcement) system," Sparr said. "Fifteen or 20 years ago, everybody was just kind of doing their own thing here and in a lot of different places. They

may have had ideas how to address the problems, but they weren't necessarily doing a great job of working with these other players. But once we started getting together with the schools, human services, the judges, the jail, law enforcement, it opened up a lot more opportunities and things were being done collaboratively that we simply couldn't have done individually."

The goal of diversion programs is a more productive citizen, thereby lowering the rate of recidivism for which Winnebago County has seen success.

SSTOP has had 1,534 referrals since 2006. A total of 1,174 have successfully completed the program and only 17% have reoffended since 2006, while recidivism has been reduced by 20%; 41,793 hours of community service have been completed; and 41,793 inmate jail days have been avoided, resulting in notable public savings.

Between January 2006 and May 2017, 376 individuals were referred to the Drug Court. Of those who participated, half graduated from the program. Graduates are less likely to commit a subsequent offense and the average cost of their substance abuse treatment is under \$8,000. The cost of treatment for those terminated early due to noncompliance is significantly higher.

Through 2022, participants in the Drug Court completed just over 42,677 hours of community service work in Winnebago County.

Woldt, the only original member still on the committee, proposed and gained approval at its April meeting that the Drug Court team develop a framework and transitional plan for selecting and training new Drug Court judges.

"So, after five years, we can start tran-

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sitioning in new judges and can keep on training judges," Woldt said. "When judges reach that seven-year mark, there is another trained judge who can take over the Drug Court."

Woldt would also like to have the group start thinking about working with local prisons on inmates' re-entry into the general population. That would include more support for them when released - specifically help with housing and employment.

"When people are getting out of prison, instead of just opening the doors and telling them to meet their parole and probation agent the next week, have some more support for these people when they first get out," he said. "If we can do things to help people who are getting out of prison change their lives around, that's what I'd like to see."

Woldt believes more money from the fines paid should go toward treatment.

"When you get an OWI, the fine for the first time is \$850 minimum. The fine itself is \$150 but the remaining \$700 is for costs," he said. "Only \$50 of this money goes toward treatment. The rest of it goes toward legislators' pet programs. I just don't think that's right."

Woldt has suggested putting a 1-cent tax on every bottle of beer that's sold. People who drink would essentially pay for their own treatment if they commit crimes while under the influence.

"Right now, next to nothing from the taxes that the state gets for alcohol sales goes to any type of treatment program. I think that's backwards," he said. "It'd be hard to change that, but it makes a lot of sense; it makes the most sense."





Legion Auxiliary president ends dedicated service

Boyette takes leadership after Kiesling's 11 years

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

After more than a decade serving as the Neenah American Legion Auxiliary president, Char Kiesling has handed over the title to Kathie Boyette, who also serves as alderman for the city's First District.

Kiesling's family became involved with the Legion when she was a child after her father was injured in an accident at a beef

packing plant in Jefferson. With seven children to feed and a farm to run, the family was going through hard times.



Kiesling's father wasn't a member of the Legion at the time, but when a local branch of the organization

Kiesling

learned of his injury they came out to the farm to help.

"They brought food, they brought money," she said. "They went out in the field and they baled hay. They cultivated corn for my dad. They did chores for my dad until he was up on his feet."

That experience inspired Kiesling's father to join the Legion, eventually taking on leadership roles of membership chairman and vice commander. He also recruited his daughters and other relatives to sign up as Legion and Auxiliary members.

"He was really my mentor," she said. "When I became department president I kind of looked up above and I said, this is for you, dad. This presidency is for you."

The Legion Auxiliary is made up of the male and female spouses, grandmothers, mothers, sisters, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of the American Legion, which is dedicated to supporting veterans.

Kiesling has been involved with the organization for about 45 years, holding several positions. She's been president of the 6th District, department chaplain, department historian, second and first vice president before finally landing in her most recent role.

When Kiesling started out with the Neenah Legion Auxiliary, there were only a few members. Her leadership has helped grow the unit to one of the largest in the county, with 131 members.

Throughout the years, she's been involved in many projects to help veterans in the community.

"These children and these families need someone to support them," she said. "Maybe they need gas to get to a doctor's appointment, or maybe the veteran needs a ride to the VA (Veterans Affairs) system, so there's so many different ways we give."

Kiesling found that working to get youth involved with the Legion was the most rewarding. She served as the Badger Girls State chairman of the Neenah unit for more than 20 years. The program develops leadership skills and helps train future stateswomen in the science of government.

"They learn about government and patriotism and make a lot of friendships," she said. "Sometimes the friendships they make at Badger Girls last a lifetime."

With Kiesling's husband experiencing medical problems, she wanted to spend





Poppy chairman Patti Julius (left) is shown with new American Legion Auxiliary president Kathie Boyette and 2018 Poppy Princess Averi Conner.

more time with him and her family. And with Boyette interested in taking on a leadership role in the organization, Kiesling decided now was the right time to retire from the presidency.

"She's very organized, she's very outgoing," Kiesling said of Boyette. "She knows a lot about the way to get things done, being an alderman."

Boyette joined the Neenah Auxiliary unit about seven years ago after doing family research in genealogy and finding that many of her late relatives were in the military.

"I wanted to do something to come out and honor their name and what they had done by serving for our country," she said.

Since then, Boyette has continued to learn and grow by taking different positions within the organization; from member, to vice president and historian.

"I'm a giver," Boyette said. "I'm one of those people that I do better volunteering and doing as much as I can to give back and help whoever I can, and veterans have always been dear to my heart."

Boyette said Kiesling has given 200% to the organization, which sometimes means putting family on the back burner. Both ladies are confident in Boyette's leadership of the Auxiliary.

"We like to show our appreciation to (the Legion) for being there for the families to have the military honors at their funerals or memorial services," she said.

JULY 14, 2023

Boyette has seen firsthand the many things the Legion and Auxiliary does for veterans, such as taking Christmas gifts to the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, donating food at Thanksgiving, and supporting veterans and their children through medical conditions.

"We had members that had some medical concerns and needed a special pair of shoes to wear, and so the Auxiliary donated money to that child and to that family, for that child to have these special shoes," she said.

Support for the veterans comes from donations and fundraising events such as Poppy Days in May, which raised \$7,000 for the local unit.

Boyette was sworn in as president last month.

"I want to see the unit continue to grow, and I want to see younger generations become members and build our membership," Boyette said.

For Kiesling, retirement is bittersweet,

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Most meaningful to Boyette has been the Auxiliary's participation in Memorial Day events, including a ceremony where a wreath is placed in the water to signify respect for those lost at sea.

but she has hope that the Neenah Legion Auxiliary will continue to flourish.

"Some of those veterans have suffered because they'd been in war and they've left their families," she said. "They've given up a lot to serve our country and someone needs to be there to say thank you, and to not forget about what they sacrificed."



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Drug strategies

from Page 1

an opioid such as fentanyl, meaning an overdose can come back.

"It's really important to have EMS there in case much more Narcan is needed than what's available and somebody might not be having an overdose from an opioid ... there might be some other medical event that looks like an overdose, but it's not actually an overdose," she said.

Zahn, born and raised in Scotland, traveled from his office in Madison to Neenah earlier this month to share information about a free statewide program to prevent overdoses and promote community safety.

The program, started in 2020, is called Nalox-ZONE and aims to increase access by installing, tracking and refilling opioid overdose kits.

The kits are a plastic box that has a door on it, installed on a wall. Each kit contains Narcan, administration instructions, a CPR mask and 211 resource information. The program is funded by the state Department of Health Services.

A program requirement is that at least one person at each of the Nalox-ZONE sites is trained in the administration of Narcan. Voices for Recovery offers two virtual trainings per month on administering Narcan, which are open to anyone who wants to learn how to treat an overdose.

"We were looking for strategies to get Narcan out into the community for increased access to hopefully reduce the risk of fatal opioid overdoses," Burzinski said.

Naloxone may be available through other community recovery organizations but with the Nalox-ZONE kits the program specialists are able to remotely track box access, ensuring they are stocked in a timely manner. It also allows specialists to collect data on the number of units of naloxone dispensed at each box site.

The county's health department gave a presentation at the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting Monday on using grant funds to obtain Substance Use Harm Reduction Vending Machines. The vending machines would include Narcan kits, fentanyl test strip kits and Deterra drug deactivation bags. They would also include educational materials, treatment and recovery resources and crisis contact information.

The proposed locations for the vending machines are in the county administration building's outdoor courtyard at 112 Otter Ave. in Oshkosh, inside the Orrin King building at 448 Algoma Blvd. in Oshkosh and outside the Neenah Human Services building at 211 N. Commercial St.

Sheriff John Matz told the committee in June he was concerned about Narcan vending machines being placed in high



A Nalox-ZONE kit is shown.

schools. "At some point, we become complicit," he said. "It's perpetuating drug use. We've got to be careful that we're not doing that, that we're not making it easy."

Health director Doug Gieryn said at Monday's meeting that it's a myth that having Narcan available will increase drug use.

"Nobody really wants to overdose and having to use Narcan is going to create a miserable situation for that person," he said.

Zahn said he's placed the Nalox-ZONE kits in elementary, middle and high schools.

"It just gets me mental, as we say in Scotland, because I had a 12-year-old girl overdose and barely made it," he said.

Burzinski said increasing access to Narcan isn't about facilitating drug use, but about having a safer community.

"People have fire extinguishers in different buildings for safety measures and that's not encouraging people to set fires," she said. "So, since we cannot control the fentanyl that is getting into drugs across the state, what we can do is, we can control the safety measure, and we can increase access to the safety measure and keep our community safer."

The kits are in more than 350 locations in Wisconsin, including jail lobbies, police departments, probation and parole offices, hotel lobbies, gas stations, restaurants and bars. They're also in the lobbies of all 10 residence halls on the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh campus and universities across the state.

"We are willing to come and put them anywhere, because we believe in it," said Zahn, who is in long-term recovery himself. "So, the way my mentor in my life has always taught me is, those closest to the problem are closest to the solution."

Burzinski said the goal is to extend the program to every county in Wisconsin.

"Learning how to administer Narcan is really important and access to Narcan is really important," she said. "Both of these things in conjunction can save a life and give a person another chance at life."

To find out more about the Nalox-ZONE program or request a box installation. email naloxzone@fammed.wisc.edu.

Where to find Narcan, and how to reverse an overdose

WiWatch and Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service

Public health experts, advocates, nonprofits and politicians don't always agree with each other.

But in the case of tackling opioids, they offer this consensus: People should learn how to use Narcan.

Narcan, a brand-name version of naloxone, blocks opioids from binding to receptors in the brain, quickly reversing the effects of an overdose.

"Everyone has the potential to find someone that is experiencing an overdose," said Amy Molinski, peer support specialist at Community Medical Services and one of the peers for the Milwaukee Overdose Response Initiative.

Overdose risks extend both to those who take illicit drugs and those who have prescription opioids, said Milwaukee Fire Capt. David Polachowski, who supervises the initiative.

"If you don't have Narcan available," Polachowski said, "there's just potential for a fatal overdose."

Detect signs of an overdose

The first step of using Narcan is to know the common signs of an opioid overdose. They include having pale skin and lips; experiencing slow breathing and "snoring" breaths; vomiting; and having a limp body. In addition, victims can have extremely constricted pupils, or "pinpoint" pupils.

Check for responsiveness

If someone is experiencing an overdose, they are not able to communicate, said Courtney Geiger, public health strategist with Milwaukee Health Department.

Polachowski said to take the knuckles of your hand and rub it in the center of the person's chest as hard as you can, while you're calling their name or just calling out to them.

If the person is unresponsive, check for breathing. See if the person's chest is rising, or place your hand or head on the person's chest.

If the person is breathing but is unresponsive, call 911. A person does not need Narcan if they are breathing, since Narcan's purpose is to restore breathing.

Local college graduates

The following local residents received college degrees this spring:

UW-Stout

Jonathan Olson, BS Human Development and Family Studies

Matthew Pavletich, BS Business Administration But, Polachowski said, "You need to call 911 in case it's not an overdose. You want to have EMS (emergency medical services) on its way, so that they can treat the person for whatever reason that they're unresponsive ... if it's a diabetic reason or stroke or a heart attack"

If the person is not breathing, administer Narcan and still call 911.

"You just put your phone on speakerphone, call 911 and then you start the administration of Narcan," Polachowski said.

How to administer Narcan

Narcan comes in a nasal spray bottle with enough for two sprays. Insert the nozzle into a person's nostril and spray it once. If you can, tilt the person's body, or at least their head, to the side to prevent choking or aspiration in case of vomiting.

After the initial spray, wait two to three minutes to see if it works, "which is going to seem like forever," Polachowski said.

Prepare for emergency workers

The goal is to get the person breathing again while waiting for EMS to arrive, Geiger said.

If the first spray does not get the person breathing, then administer the second spray into the other nostril. If the person does not begin breathing after the second spray, begin rescue breathing.

For rescue breathing, make sure the person is on their back, clear their airway by tilting the head back and chin up, pinch their nose, create a seal with your mouth around the person's mouth and gently breathe into their mouth for one second.

Keep breathing into their mouth every five to six seconds, until the person can breathe on their own or EMS arrives.

Be ready to relay to EMS as much information as you have about the person's situation and what steps you have taken.

Where to find Narcan

Narcan is widely available in Wisconsin and can be purchased without a prescription at hundreds of pharmacies. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services maintains a map showing those locations.

State residents can receive free Narcan by mail. Submit a request at nextdistro. org/wisconsin.

Lucy Will, BS Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management

UW-Platteville Matthew Challoner, Mechanical Engineering

Iowa State University

Parker Nolden, Master of Engineering

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Heroin, fentanyl sales bring six-year prison term

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

Nathan Kerrigan, 35, of Neenah, was sentenced to six years in prison last month for selling heroin and fentanyl to an undercover informant.

In February, Oshkosh police made arrangements with a confidential informant to purchase heroin from Kerrigan, according to a copy of the criminal complaint obtained by Neenah News.

The informant was dropped off on Taft Avenue in Oshkosh, got into a vehicle with Kerrigan that traveled to Honeysuckle Lane in Neenah, and returned to the Taft area, having purchased 4.8 grams of heroin for \$470.

On March 6, the informant purchased 6.1 grams of suspected heroin from Kerrigan for \$500. One piece of the suspected heroin tested positive for fentanyl and another tested positive for fentanyl and heroin.

On March 22, the informant purchased 4.9 grams of heroin for \$540. During that

transaction, Kerrigan told the informant he was on his way back from getting drugs in Milwaukee. A week later, authorities placed a GPS tracking device on Kerrigan's vehicle.



The device showed that from March 29 to April 24, the vehicle traveled to Milwaukee three times, each time staying only briefly before returning to a home on Ida Street in Menasha.

On April 24, the Lake Winnebago Area

MEG Unit and Oshkosh Police Department executed search warrants at the Ida Street and Honeysuckle Lane locations.

Investigators were aware that Kerrigan's vehicle, which still had GPS on it, traveled to Milwaukee that day and was returning to the area. The vehicle returned to the Ida Street location and investigators later approached the residence. Nicole Buchanan, 33, exited the residence "hysterical and screaming." Her father, who owned the Ida Street home, told authorities that Kerrigan was staying at the Ida Street residence and another residence in Neenah. He confirmed that Kerrigan was inside the home.

Authorities entered the home and yelled loudly to Kerrigan and announced themselves as officers. A different male came up from the basement, followed by Buchanan's 11-year-old daughter. About 30 minutes later, Kerrigan surrendered.

Documents say officers were concerned that Kerrigan destroyed evidence as he had been in the bathroom and defecated in the toilet, and it seemed unlikely that he would travel to Milwaukee to only pick up a small amount of heroin.

In a basement bedroom belonging to Buchanan, authorities found suspected heroin, scales and drug paraphernalia. Some items were found in a dropped ceiling. Rocks of suspected heroin were found in Buchanan's bed, with one testing positive for heroin and another for heroin and fentanyl.

Buchanan is facing charges of possession of narcotic drugs and maintaining a drug trafficking place.

Authorities also executed a search warrant at the Honeysuckle Lane address where Kerrigan lived with his girlfriend. Drug paraphernalia, a drug ledger, THC and three rocklike substances with inconclusive field testing were seized.

Kerrigan has an extensive criminal record with felonies including two 2017 convictions for manufacturing or delivering heroin in Winnebago County.

Last month, Kerrigan entered guilty pleas and was convicted of manufacturing or delivering heroin and manufacturing or delivering fentanyl. Three additional felony drug charges were dismissed but read into the record.

Winnebago County Circuit Judge Brian Keberlein sentenced Kerrigan to six years in prison on each of the two counts, with the sentences served concurrently, and four years of extended supervision.

Medallion hunt

from Page 1

said, "and we've brought families together. We've had people that are so interested in learning the history of our great city, that they look forward to certain clues that present the history."

The challenge has helped police build trust with families and businesses, open up communication, and encourage the public to work with police as a team to create safety and reduce crime.

"It's fun to hear the stories of the collaborations of different teams of families trying to solve these clues and I think it's fulfilling some of the objectives that we started off with," Bernice said. "The plan was to enlighten our community with the history of the city of Neenah, to create an activity for family and friends, create physical fitness within the community, and then some type of collaboration between the police department, the city and the community, that we could work together."

The difficulty of the medallion's hiding spot varies. The first week's medallion was hidden in front of the police department and took only 17 minutes to find. The most difficult hiding spot so far was in the water beneath rock steps in Arrowhead Park, taking 46 hours and 15 minutes to be located.

"It's just amazing how people invest their time and energy into the search of these," Bernice said. "You know, people spend hours upon hours, trying to follow up on history to determine which park it it m



Felix and sister Zoe found a medallion at Southview Park with mom and dad's help in week 9.

may be at or invest so much time looking at the park trying to find key locations that it might be in."

A recent clue was a photo of the medallion in its location. Bernice said the person who found that medallion used his profession to determine the species of plants and trees in the photo and began his search in an area where those plants and trees grow.

"We try to make it open to everybody, but we want to focus on key skill sets of different things," he said.

Police have a committee that comes up with the various hunts and clues. Bernice hinted that future clues may involve orienteering with a map. Finding one of the hiding spots may require participants to use a watercraft.

"We try to make easy clues and hard clues, because we want to cover the whole spectrum of people – you know, something simple, something complex," he said.

The coveted medallions are 8.3 ounces, 3 inches in diameter, made of antique brass and are a true minted coin made by Medalcraft Mint in Green Bay. The cost for 100 medallions was just over \$5,000, purchased with money donated to the community policing fund.

Police hope more residents will participate in the hunt by watching for clues on Mondays.

"It's a free event, people can take part in it, and they truly find a treasure where X marks the spot," Bernice said.

Monday's treasure hunt will be the 29th of the 52-week hunt, which goes through the end of the year.

"We have an amazing community," Bernice said. "It's fun to hear the stories, it's fun to hear the logic of how they discovered the clue, and then when a group or family finds the coin, to see their expression and the fulfillment that they solved or got a treasure; so we're very happy."

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Photo by Sam Erickson

Holiday boat beacon

Vinny Lando and his holiday-lighted sailboat took first place at Neenah's Venetian Parade held during Fourth of July activities at Riverside Park.



Be a part of Neenah history!

The new Neenah High School is set to open for the 2023-24 school year, replacing the current school that opened in 1972. This is a rare opportunity to show your support and appreciation for the old school and new school.

Neenah News is creating a commemorative section that will feature stories, photos, memories and achievements of Neenah High School over the past five decades. You will also get a glimpse of the new school, which will offer state-of-the-art facilities, innovative programs and enhanced opportunities for students and staff.

The commemorative section will be published Aug. 25, 2023, and mailed to nearly 21,500 homes in the Neenah Joint School District. It will be in print and online,

City projects

from Page 1

\$4.6 million for street and bridge repair projects, which includes \$2.2 million for South Commercial Street construction and \$1.3 million for construction on Bergstrom Road.

\$2 million for parks and recreation, which includes seawall construction for both Doty Park and Kimberly Point, and

lighthouse design at Kimberly Point. \$1.4 million for Ar-



Rasmussen

ter plan is approved. \$1.4 million for public works capital equip-

ment, which includes replacing plow trucks,

a garbage truck, a supervisor's truck, a dump truck and a stump grinder.

2026 expenditures:

\$7.2 million for street and bridge repair projects, which includes \$1.7 million for Wisconsin Avenue reconstruction, \$1.3 million for Reed Street construction and \$1.1 million for Elm Street construction.

\$1.6 million for the city's information systems hardware and software maintenance for five-year agreements at a cost savings.

2027 expenditures:

\$4 million for street and bridge repair projects which includes \$1.3 million for Cecil Street construction.

\$1.3 million for Neenah's share of a new \$2.2 million, 100-foot aerial truck for the joint Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue Department.

\$125,000 to build a cremation mausoleum at the city-owned Oak Hill Cemetery on Oakridge Road.

Director of finance Vicky Rasmussen said completing the 2023-2027 plan took about a month. She cautioned that the plan is not set in stone and is expected to change. The numbers are projected expenses.

Rasmussen noted that the street projects are the actual reconstruction or creation of the streets and does not include the sewer, stormwater and water utilities that are replaced or newly put in.

Lang said she moved some projects around to allocate the costs over the years to eliminate significant fluctuations.

"We do not want to borrow at levels that could potentially have a negative impact on our city's future and I'm committed to making sure we are careful with our borrowed dollars," she said.

Wroblewski to lead U.S. women's team

Neenah native John Wroblewski, head hockey coach of the U.S. Women's National Team since June 2022, will continue with the team through the 2026 Olympic Winter Games, it was announced by US Hockey.

Wroblewski led Team USA to the gold medal at the 2023 IIHF Women's World Championship, the first for the U.S. since 2019. Additionally, he coached the team to a silver medal at the 2022 IIHF Women's World Championship.

Wroblewski led the 2017 U.S. Under-18 Men's National team to gold at the IIHF Under-18 Men's World Championship. He also served as a head coach of USA Hockey's National Team Development

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*LIMITED PREMIUM POSITIONS available. Ask your advertising executive.



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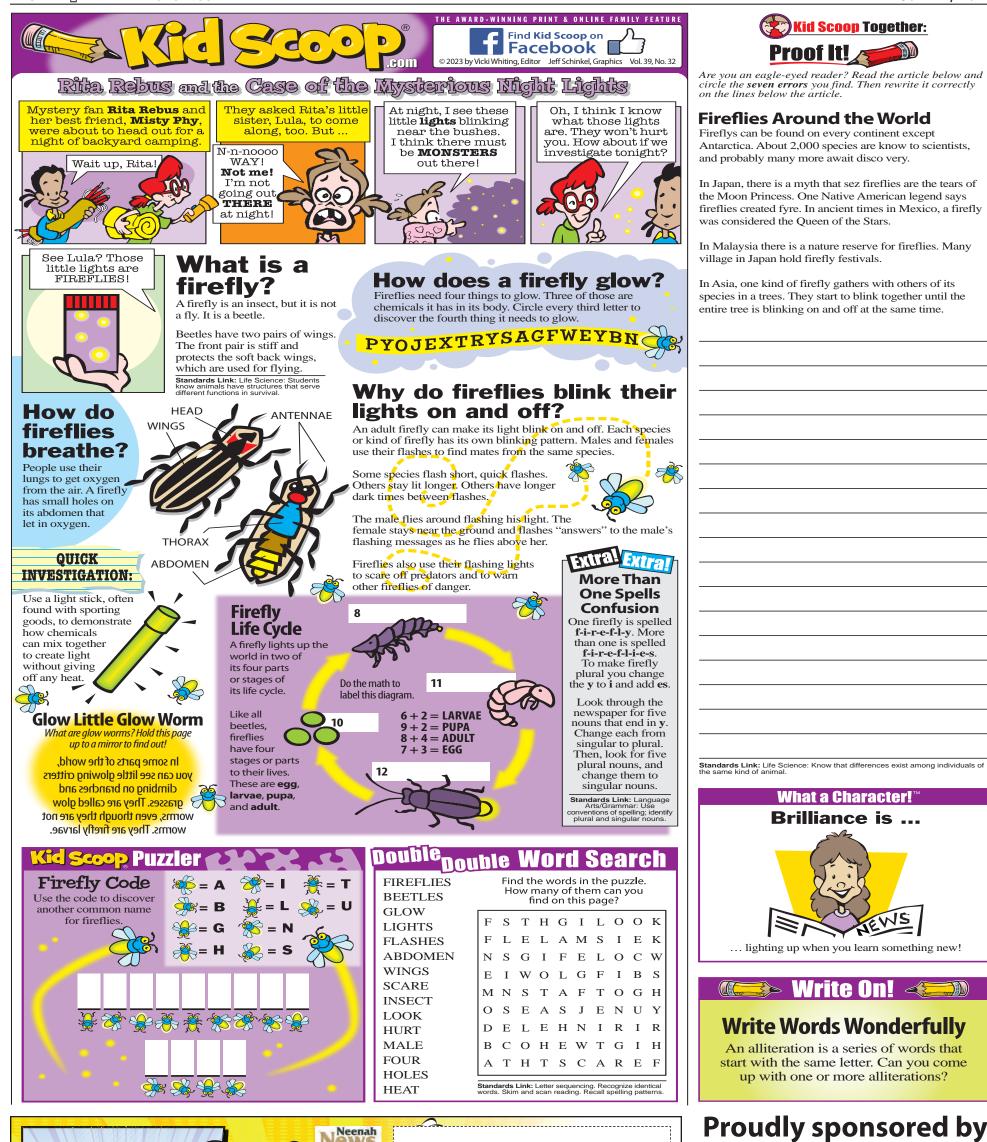
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